

**AUSTRALIA****John Duval, Entify, Barossa Valley**

After years at Penfolds, responsible for Grange, Australia's icon wine, John Duval now makes his own handcrafted wines. This intense, fine-structured Shiraz has blackberry, blueberry and coffee notes, a full-bodied, balanced palate, depth, juicy acidity, and a long, pure-fruited finish.

**Charles Melton, Nine Popes, Barossa Valley**

One of the first Barossa wines to blend Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvèdre together, Nine Popes is still on form and bursting with flavour. Black cherry and tobacco notes, with meaty, savoury tones and plummy, spicy finish.

**Grosset, Gaia, Clare Valley**

Grapes for this wine come from a stony, windswept vineyard at 520 metres (1,700 feet), high above the cornfields of the Clare Valley. The wine is a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated Meritage blend and manages deep, brambly blackcurrant fruit, with succulence, weight and density.

**Shaw and Smith, Shiraz, Adelaide Hills**

The Shiraz from this highly successful winery comes from a number of sites in the Adelaide Hills to reflect the region's terroir. Fragrant black cherry fruit, with a sprinkling of pepper and a dusting of cocoa, refined, with a vibrant, clean, fruity finish.

**Mitolo, Jester Shiraz, McLaren Vale**

A fine range of wines from this producer with G.A.M. leading the Shiraz field. But this Jester Shiraz is a terrific, expressive wine with supple, intense bramble and prune fruit, laced with liquorice and ending with a sweet, ripe, showy finish.

**Clonakilla, Hilltops Shiraz, Canberra District**

A small family winery making distinctive, handcrafted wines. Drink the exceptional Shiraz Viognier when you can find it, but this is more affordable and available, with powerful peppery, red fruits, chocolate, and a touch of liquorice and firm, structured tannins.

**Cullen, Mangan, Margaret River**

An unusual blend of Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec from a single vineyard, where low yields and biodynamic approach produce deep-flavoured characterful wines. This has rich plum and blackberry fruit, with a light herbal note and soft, plush tannins.

**NEW ZEALAND****Ata Rangi, Pinot Noir, Martinborough, Wairarapa**

One of the pioneers in Martinborough, Clive Paton now has some of the oldest vines in the region. Low yields and open canopies allow full ripening of the grapes to produce savoury, silky-textured wines with dark-cherry tones and a rich, long finish.

**Delta Vineyard, 'Hatters Hill' Pinot Noir, Marlborough**

This new vineyard, planted on clay-rich slopes at the mouth of the Waihopai Valley, is producing astonishingly good wine for such young vines. Soft and elegant with lifted cherry aromas, savoury complexity, and a supple, clean, raspberry-edged finish.

## FRANCE



### **Jaboulet, Cotes du Rhône Parallèle 45 Rouge, Rhône Valley**

One of the Rhône's flagship producers, Jaboulet's comprehensive range includes this good-value Cotes du Rhône from Grenache and Syrah. Peppery black raspberry and cassis fruit with velvety texture and a long, balanced finish.

## ITALY



### **G.D. Vajra, Barolo le Albe, Piedmont**

Vajra's soft, supple Le Albe tends to be gentler than many Barolos, with the emphasis on elegant, soft, violet and raspberry tinged fruit suitable for youthful drinking. Aged in large Slavonian oak rather than small barriques, the varietal flavours shine out with clear definition.



### **Aldo Conterno, Nebbiolo Langhe Il Favot**

Aldo Conterno is one of Piedmont's legendary producers and his Barolos fetch stellar prices. Il Favot, a more affordable version of Conterno's Barolos is still incredibly complex with blackberry fruit, truffle and savoury notes.



### **Livio Felluga, Sossò Riserva, Colli Orientali del Friuli**

From one of the grand estates of Friuli, this blend of Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso with Merlot and Pignolo is aged for 18 months in oak. It captures ripe raspberry fruit with herbs and balsamic spicy notes, combined with a full-bodied palate and silky tannins.



### **Capezzana, Barco Reale**

This delightful ancient estate has been leading the way in the small Carmignano area just northwest of Florence. The main wine has deep, structured flavours, but this younger version has juicy damson fruit with black pepper and light tannins.



### **Felsina, Chianti Classico**

Full-flavoured, chunky wines made from organically cultivated vineyards at the edge of the Chianti Classico region. The basic Chianti Classico, made from 100 per cent Sangiovese grapes, has earthy, fruity notes and a dense ripe structure. Move up to the single-vineyard Rancia for outstanding flavours.



### **Fontodi, Chianti Classico**

Giovanni Manetti has been replanting his vines and restructuring his vineyards, which are situated in the perfect amphitheatre of Panzano's Concha d'Oro. Now totally organic, the wines have deep morello fruit with structure, elegance and length.



### **Isole e Olena, Cepparello IGT**

This 100 per cent Sangiovese, from some of the best sites on Paolo Marchi's estate. Outside the DOC regulations when first made, it still retains its IGT status. It has ripe, deep cherry and raspberry fruit, full structure and excellent length.



### **Poggio San Polo, Rosso di Montalcino**

This estate is one of the region's rising stars. The Rosso comes from the same vines as the main Brunello wine; only the youngest and freshest barriques are selected to give refreshing, vibrant cherry-soaked wine with cedar and earthy notes.



### **A Mano, Prima Mano, Puglia**

A Mano makes a very good regular Primitivo at a very affordable price, but in exceptional years the top wine, 100 Primitivo, is oak-aged and shows pure, direct blueberry and raspberry fruit with balance and complexity.



**Donnafugata, Mille e Una Notte, DOC Contessa Entellina, Sicily**

Nero D'Avola grapes, grown at altitude in the western part of the island, produce this top red. It is subtle, perfumed, and complex with notes of violets and incense melded to earthy fruit and fine-grained tannins.

**SOUTH AFRICA**



**Goats do Roam, 'Goat Roti', Coastal Region**

Chuckle over the impertinence of the wine names from this offshoot company at Charles Back's Fairview, but taste the flavours too. Syrah with a dash of Viognier gives violets on the nose, smoky dark fruit on the palate and a chocolaty finish.

**USA**



**Seghesio Home Ranch Zinfandel, Alexander Valley**

The Seghesio family recently cut back production to focus on fruit from their own vines. This old vineyard, in the warmth of the Alexander Valley, ripens Zinfandel perfectly, giving spicy cherry and blackberry fruit and rich, lingering finish.



**Firesteed Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley**

Without vineyards or a winery, this brand did more in the last decade to promote Oregon Pinot than many others. Consistently well made, it has black cherry fruit, with a touch of dark chocolate and smooth tannins. A new winery has now been acquired.